

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed November 24, 2004, the cited prior art references have been reviewed, and the Examiner's claim objections and rejections have been considered. Applicants note that claims 2-15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants specifically traverse all objections and rejections regarding all pending claims and earnestly solicit allowance of these claims.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

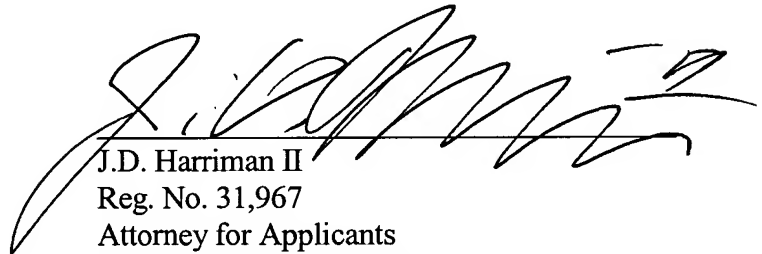
The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Nair et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, in the interest of expediency and issuance of the present application, claim 1 has been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest and bona fide effort to clarify the issues before the Examiner and to place this case in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing discussions, it is believed clear that the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art are such that the claimed invention is patentably distinct over the prior art. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of claims 2-28 is believed to be in order, and an early Notice of Allowance to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner should have any questions concerning the foregoing, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (310) 712-8323. The undersigned attorney can normally be reached Monday through Friday from about 9:30 AM to 6:30 PM Pacific Time.

Respectfully submitted,

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